

COCKERMOUTH  
Urban District Council

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*Annual Report*

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,  
Charles A. Mason, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

---

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

---

Together with the Summary of Work  
of the Sanitary Inspector.



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# Cockermouth Urban District Council.

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To the Chairman and Members of the  
Cockermouth Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1938. To comply with the request of the Ministry of Health, this is drawn up in accordance with Circular 1728, dated 25th October, 1938, and the Registrar General's Memorandum SD/54 received May 26th, 1938.

The Report of your Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor is appended.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

**CHARLES A. MASON,**

Medical Officer of Health.

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres), 2,062.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1938)  
4,794.

Number of inhabited houses (end 1938) according to Rate  
Books, 1,562.

Rateable Value                   ...                   ...                   £23,196.

Sum represented by Penny Rate :—£88.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live    }	Legitimate	70	42	28	} Birth Rate (R.G.)
Births }	Illegitimate	5	3	2	
Still Births	...	4	4	0	Rate per 1,000
Total (live and still) births					50.6

		Total	M.	F.	
Deaths	...	77	28	49	Crude Death Rate
(R.G.) 16.06 per 1,000 of estimated resident population.					

Deaths from puerperal causes (childbirth):—

		Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Sepsis	...	nil	nil
Other puerperal causes		nil	nil
Total	...	nil	nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	26.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births		28.5
Illegitimate                   ,,                   illegitimate                   ,,		Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)		0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		0
Deaths from Cancer	...                   ...	11

# Cockermouth Urban District.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

### OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the year 1938.

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The area of the district in statute acres (land and inland water) is 2,062.

### RAINFALL.

Records, taken at Cockermouth Castle, 1938 :—

January	...	4.27	inches of rain fell on	21	days
February	...	1.25	"	6	"
March	...	2.67	"	7	"
April	...	.59	"	4	"
May	...	3.56	"	13	"
June	...	4.19	"	10	"
July	...	6.83	"	14	"
August	...	3.25	"	9	"
September	...	3.13	"	9	"
October	...	9.79	"	25	"
November	...	6.23	"	24	"
December	...	2.75	"	14	"
Total		48.51	"	155	"

Heaviest fall in one day— 2.½ inches on 29th July.

The average for ten years (1929—1938) was 35.61.  
(The total of 48.51 inches of rain for 1938 is approximately 7 inches above the average, as gathered from records kept for many years by the late Dr. Dodgson and the late Josiah Hall, Esq., Cockermouth)

### POPULATION.

The Registrar General's figure for the resident population of the district estimated to the middle of 1938 is 4,794, on which the birth and death rates, etc, are based.

(The figure for 1937 was 4,833).

*(The yearly estimates of population provided by the Registrar General are based on the adjusted last Census figures after allowance for births, deaths, and migration.)*

## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE.

In the Cockermouth Urban District, which is included in the Mid-Cumberland Guardians' Area, the number of persons in receipt of out-door relief was 210, giving a proportion of (approximately) 1 in 23 of the population, as compared with 1 in 23 for 1937, 1 in 22 for 1936, 1 in 26 for 1935, 1 in 25 for 1934, 1 in 23 for 1933, and 1 in 20 for 1932.

4 persons were admitted to Public Assistance Hospital from this district during the year, giving a proportion of 1 in 1198 of the population.

The numbers for 1938 are detailed as follows:—

	Out-door Relief		Total	Indoor Relief
	Ordinary	Unemployed		
Cockermouth U.D.	130	80	210	4
(1937	139	70	209	4)
(1936	126	96	222	5)
(1935	118	77	195	?)

## Vital Statistics.

## BIRTHS.

Live Births.—There were 75 Live Births (45 males and 30 females) registered as belonging to the district (i.e. after including inward transfers and excluding outward transfers): of these 5 (3 male and 2 females) were illegitimate.

The net live birth rate was accordingly 15.6 per 1000 of the population, compared with 14.06 for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows:—

Birth Rates, 1938—Cumberland	...	15.9
Rural Districts of Cumberland	...	15.2
Urban Districts of Cumberland	...	16.8
England and Wales	...	15.1
Cockermouth Rural District	..	14.7
Cockermouth Urban District	...	15.6

The Live Birth Rates for the past 10 years in the Cockermouth Urban District were :—

Year —	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Rate —	15.6	14.06	14.1	14.9	15.5	12.9	11.6	16.9	12.6	18.02

The percentage of illegitimate live births was 6.6 as compared with 4.4 in 1937.

The percentages of illegitimate live births for the past ten years were :—

Year—1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
% —6.6	4.4	4.3	6.6	1.3	9.5	7.0	9.8	8.4	9.5



## CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1938.

CAUSES OF DEATH.			Males	Females
ALL CAUSES	...	...	28	49
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever				
2 Measles	...	...		
3 Scarlet fever	...	...		
4 Whooping-cough	...	...		
5 Diphtheria	...	...		
6 Influenza	...	...	1	1
7 Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...		
8 Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...		
9 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...		2
10 Other tuberculous diseases	...	...	1	
11 Syphilis	...	...		
12 General Paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...		
13 Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	2	9
14 Diabetes	...	...	1	
15 Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	...	...	5	9
16 Heart Disease	...	...	4	9
17 Aneurism	...	...		
18 Other Circulatory diseases	...	...	2	1
19 Bronchitis	...	...	2	1
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...		4
21 Other Respiratory diseases	...	...		
22 Peptic Ulcer	...	...		1
23 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...		
24 Appendicitis	...	...		
25 Cirrhosis of liver	...	...		
26 Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...		
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...	2	
28 Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	2	
29 Puerperal sepsis	...	...	—	
30 Other puerperal causes	...	...	—	
31 Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	...	...	1	
32 Senility	...	...	1	
33 Suicide	...	...		1
34 Other Violence	...	...	1	2
35 Other defined diseases	...	...	3	7
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...		2
Special Causes (included in No. 35 above)				
Small-pox	...	...		
Poliomyelitis	...	...		
Polioencephalitis	...	...		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age				
Total		...	2	
Legitimate		...	2	
Illegitimate		...		
LIVE BIRTHS	{	TOTAL	45	30
		Legitimate	42	28
		Illegitimate	3	2
STILL BIRTHS	{	TOTAL	4	
		Legitimate	4	
		Illegitimate		
POPULATION (for Births & Deaths) 1938—R.G. ...			4,794	

# Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality in the year 1938.

	Birth-Rate per 1000 total population		Annual Death rate per 1000 population										Rate per 1000 Births
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes		Small-pox	Typhoid & Para- typhoid Fevers	Whooping Cough	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Influ- enza	Vio- lence	Total Deaths under 1 year
			Crude D.R.	Adjusted D.R.									
England & Wales	15.1	0.60	11.6	—	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.07	0.11	0.55	53
Cumberland ..	15.9		13.5	13.0									60
Urban Districts...	16.8		13.5	13.6									54
Rural ..	15.2		13.6	12.4									64
Cockermouth													
Urban Dist.	15.6	0.83	16.0	13.4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.41	0.83	26.6

Still Births.—4 still births (all legitimate) were also registered giving a still birth rate of 0.83 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 0.62 for 1937. (The rate for all England and Wales was 0.60).

The still birth rate per 1000 total live and still births was 50.6 as compared with 42.2 for 1937.

Still birth rates per 1000 population for past ten years:—

Year—1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Rate—.83	.62	.40	.59	.41	.20	.20	.62	nil	.85

Still birth rates per 1000 total live and still births for past ten years:

Year—1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Rate—50.6	42.2	28.1	38.4	25.9	15.6	17.2	35.7	nil.	45.4

## DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered as belonging to Cockermouth was 77 (i.e. after correcting for non-residents dying within the Cockermouth Urban district and for those persons whose usual residence was in Cockermouth, dying without the town). This gives a crude death rate of 16.06 per 1000 of the population as compared with 14.4 for the previous year.

By multiplying the crude death rate figure by an adjusting factor ("The Population Handicap") supplied by the Registrar General the Adjusted Death Rate is arrived at, i.e. the crude death rate adjusted, in so far as sex and age group components of the population are concerned, so as to make it comparable from a mortality point of view with the crude death rate of the country as a whole or with the mortality of any other local area similarly modified. (The adjusting or Areal Comparability Factor, was again .84). The resulting adjusted death rate (see below) for Cockermouth will be noticed to be 2.5 below the crude death rate.

Comparisons:—

	Crude	Adjusted
Death Rates, 1938—Cumberland ...	13.5	13.0
Rural Districts of Cumberland	13.6	12.4
Urban Districts of Cumberland	13.5	13.6
England and Wales ...	11.6	—
Cockermouth Rural District ...	13.2	12.6
Cockermouth Urban District	16.06	13.49

The Crude Death Rates for the past 10 years in the Cockermouth Urban District were:—

Year—1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Rate—16.0	14.4	13.7	13.9	15.5	16.8	15.3	18.38	13.08	19.0

( For causes of death during the year see table on page 7.)  
 ( For comparisons table of birth rates, death rates and analysis  
 of mortality see page 8.)

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 2\* deaths (both legitimate) among infants under one year of age, giving a low Infantile Mortality Rate of 26.6 per 1000 births as compared with 73.5 for 1937.

\*This figure includes inward transfers but not outward transfers, of course.

No death occurred among illegitimate infants, so that the Illegitimate Infantile Mortality Rate for 1938 was nil per 1000 illegitimate births, as compared with the Legitimate Infantile Mortality Rate of 28.5 per 1000 legitimate births. These latter rates were respectively 333.3 and 61.5 for the previous year.

Comparisons may be given as follows:—

Infantile Mortality Rates, 1938 :—

Cumberland	...	60
Rural Districts of Cumberland	...	64
Urban Districts of Cumberland	...	54
England and Wales	...	57
Cockermouth Rural District	...	80.4
Cockermouth Urban District		26.6

The Infantile Mortality Rates for the past 10 years in the Cockermouth Urban District were :

Year—	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Deaths—	2	5	4	3	5	13	2	11	8	4
Rate—	26.6	73.5	57.9	40.0	66.6	206	35	135	135	47

Net Deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age :—

Cause of Death	under 1 wk.	2—3 weeks	Total under 4 wks	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths.	Total under 1 yr.
Premature Birth	1		1					1
Bowel intussusception							1	1
								2

## SENILE DEATH RATE.

39 persons had attained the age of 65 years or upwards. This number represents a Senile death rate of 50.6 per cent. of the total deaths, as compared with 55.7 for 1937.

Out of the total 39 deaths :

11 (3 m 8 f)	persons died between the ages of	65 and 70 years
16 (7 m 9 f)	„ „ „	70 and 75 years
8 (3 m 5 f)	„ „ „	75 and 80 years
3 (2 m 1 f)	„ „ „	80 and 85 years
1 (f)	person died at age of	92 years

Senile death rates for the past 10 years :—

Year—	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Rate—	50.6	55.7	56.7	65.7	57.3	46.3	68.0	55.6	52.4	51.1

## INQUESTS, UNCERTIFIED DEATHS AND VIOLENCE.

In respect of deaths belonging to the district during the year there were 4 inquests (2 of which were held within the district). An inquest was also held within the district in respect of 1 non-resident.

No Coroner's certificate was received in respect of cases where post-mortem examination had been made but no inquest held.

Three deaths were uncertified.

Inquests for past 10 years:—

Year—	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Inquests—	4	3	2	5	1	1	2	6	3	1

Violence.—With reference to the Violence death-rate of 0.83 for Cockermouth Urban District, as compared 0.55 for all England and Wales (see table page 8) I give below a table showing the number of deaths from Suicide, Other Violence and the Total Violence deaths, together with the percentages of the total deaths from all causes, and the death rates of each per 1000 of the population for the past ten years:

SUICIDE—										
Years	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Deaths	1	1	2	nil	nil	nil	1	nil	1	nil
% all causes—	1'29	1'42	2'98	nil	nil	nil	1'33	nil	1'63	nil
Death-rate—	'20	'20	'40	nil	nil	nil	'20	nil	'21	nil

OTHER VIOLENCE—										
Deaths	3	2	nil	5	1	2	1	4	2	1
% all causes—	3'89	2'85	nil	7'14	1'33	2'43	1'33	4'54	3'27	1'12
Death-rate—	'62	'41	nil	'99	'20	'41	'20	'83	'42	'21

TOTAL VIOLENCE—										
Deaths	4	3	2	5	1	2	2	4	3	1
% all causes—	5'19	4'28	2'98	7'14	1'33	2'43	2'66	4'54	4'91	1'12
Death Rate—	'83	'62	'40	'99	'20	41	'40	'83	'64	'21

The 4 violence deaths during the year under review include 2 due to drowning, 1 to a motor accident, and 1 to poisoning (coal gas—suicide).

## CANCER.

Cancer proved fatal in 11 cases, as follows:—

System	Primary Organ		Males	Females	Years
Alimentary	Stomach	...		2	51 & 38
	Bowel	...		1	66
	Rectum	...		2	53 & 29
Reproductive	Uterus	...		1	29
	Penis	...	1		63
Glandular	Breast	...		1	70
	Pancreas	...	1		60
Integumentary	Face	...		1	70
General	Uncertified	...		1	56
			—	—	
			2	9	



This number corresponds to a cancer death rate of 2.29 per 1000 of the population as compared with 1.86 in 1937.

Approximately out of every 7 deaths of persons in this district 1 was due to cancer.

The cancer deaths and death rates for the past ten years were :

Year—	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Deaths—	11	9	9	6	10	8	15	7	8	8
Rate	—2.29	1.86	1.84	1.19	2.06	1.6	3.06	1.4	1.7	1.7

### ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The Zymotic Death Rate, or the death rate from the seven principal zymotic diseases for 1938 was nil per 1000 of the population the same as for the preceding year.

The following are the Zymotic diseases referred to :

Zymotic Disease.	No. of Deaths.
Smallpox	—
Measles	—
Whooping Cough	—
Diphtheria	—
Scarlet Fever	—
Fever :—Typhus	—
Typhoid	—
Para-typhoid	—
Diarrhoea	—
Total	0

Table showing Zymotic Death Rates for past ten years :—

Year—	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Rate—	nil	nil	.2	nil	.2	.2	.2	nil	.4	.2

### TUBERCULOSIS.

(Vide also page 24).

There were 3 deaths due to Tuberculosis :—

	Males.	Female.
Respiratory System	0	2
Non-Pulmonary	1	0

All three were of previously notified cases in this district.

The total gives a tuberculosis (all forms) death rate of .62 per 1000 of the population, which is the same as that for 1937.

The “Consumption” (i.e. Pulmonary Tuberculosis) Death rate is 0.41 per 1000 of the population, as compared with last year’s figure of 0.62.

The Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rates for the past ten years were :—

Year —	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Rate —	.41	.6	.6	.99	1.0	1.2	.2	1.04	.2	.8

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## General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Particulars relating to the following eight items (under the above heading) remain as detailed in my 1930 and subsequent reports :—

- (i) Hospitals.
- (ii) Nursing in the Home.
- (iii) Maternity.
- (iv) Clinics and Treatment Centres.
- (v) Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants, and Homeless Children.
- (vi) Institutional Provision for the care of Mental Defectives.
- (vii) Legislation in Force.
- (viii) Ambulance Facilities.

### PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

1. Part-time Medical Officer of Health.
2. One Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Wm. Nicholls, M.I.M. and C.E., A.R. San. I., who is also the Surveyor and Water Engineer.
3. Temporary Housing Officer—Mr. W. F. Dodds, A.R.San.I., was appointed and commenced duties January 31st, 1938, remaining in office till 31st July, 1938.

Mr. Glyn Richards was clerk in the Surveyor's office, and assisted in the duties of the department. (He resigned on January 26th, 1939, to take up another appointment; a successor was not appointed).

### LABORATORY WORK.

The following table shows the amount of work done in connection with investigations of certain cases of illness during the year, 1938 :—

Material		Test applied for—	Result :	
			Pos.	Neg.
Throat or nose swabs	...	Diphtheria	0	1
Sputum	...	Tuberculosis	0	2

The Council still has arrangements with the Clinical Research Association, Ltd., London, for examination and report on throat swabs, specimens of sputum, blood, etc., but the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory at the Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle, is mainly made use of.

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## Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The amount of Crummock Water used by Cockermouth Urban District during the year under review was approximately  $89\frac{2}{3}$  million gallons.

The consumption of water per head of the population using the water was approximately 51 gallons a day. (The amount used in 1928 was approximately 116 million gallons or 68 gallons a day per head of the population).

EXTENSION OF MAIN.—716 yards of new water main (3 inch) were laid to housing estates off Windmill Lane, belonging to Cockermouth Urban District Council, and 100 yards to new private property off Fern Bank.

The Reservoir on the Moor was cleaned out in June and a new floating arm fitted. The Secondary School reservoir was cleaned out in May.

A scheme (mentioned in my last two reports) was still under consideration to provide a better pressure in the higher parts of the district by pumping from the existing reservoir on the Moor to a proposed new reservoir behind The Towers on the Lorton Road, from which the water will gravitate to those parts that up to the present have been inadequately served. (At the time of writing a Public Inquiry has been held but the decision of the Ministry has not been received).

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewage effluent from the Outfall Works remained satisfactory. Several market gardeners continued to cart away the dried sludge for their own use free of cost.

SEWER EXTENSIONS.—The following were carried out during 1938:—

- 150 yds. 9in. sewer, Windmill Lane House Estate.
- 330 yds. 6in. sewer, Windmill Lane Housing Estate.
- 100 yds. 9in. sewer, off Fern Bank.
- 850 yds. 6in. sewer, at the Goat.
- 400 yds. 4in. cast iron rising main, at the Goat.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Owners of property in the Goat were informed that the sewerage scheme had been completed in November and that they should convert earth closets into water closets and connect to new sewer. (At the time of writing all except two have completed the necessary work or have it in hand).

PUBLIC LAVATORIES.—The construction of modern public lavatories providing accommodation for both sexes was commenced in October on the site purchased for the purpose in Main Street. (At the time of going to Press it can be said they are now completed and that they were temporarily in commission on Whitsuntide Fair Day).



## RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The circumstances relating to the fouling of waterways within the urban boundary remain much the same as reported in previous years.

The Surveyor had Bitter Beck cleaned out by the Council workmen and notice boards erected in an endeavour to help to keep the beck in a cleanly state.

## SCAVENGING AND REMOVAL OF REFUSE.

The method of scavenging and removal of refuse proceeds as formerly; collection is bi-weekly.

The same method applies to the removal of house refuse in the Goat area where, also, night soil continued to be removed by contract.

Removal of refuse is by ordinary horse-drawn carts; water-proof covers are provided, but one cart has been fitted with proper wooden top and pneumatic tyres—a marked improvement. Each cart should be so fitted.

Improper and insanitary types of refuse-receptacle are still too generally used—a complaint which has been a feature of my annual reports for many years. Nevertheless, during the year, the Council provided each of their own tenants with a suitable bin, an example which it is hoped will be followed by many other property owners in the near future. In all probability Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to provision of bins by owners) will have to be put into force

### REFUSE TIP (Tarn Close):—

As far as possible, with the staff available, controlled tipping is aimed at and improvement continues to be made.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The Sanitary Inspection of the district is undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. Nicholls, M.I.M. and C.E., who is also the Council's Surveyor and Water Engineer. His time has been very fully occupied with multifarious duties since he came here in 1937. It is a pleasure to me to refer to his willing co-operation at all times and my thanks are due to him for his assistance in the making of this report at the end of which will be found his Summary of Work done—in accordance with Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926.

In accordance with routine throughout the country the Ministry of Health caused a Survey to be made of the Council's Public Health Services in June and August by Dr. Neil R. Beattie, one of the Ministry's Inspectors. (The Report on this Survey was received by the Council in January, 1939).

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

This Act came into force on July 1st, 1938, and replaces the Factories and Workshops Act, 1901, and several other enactments relating to factories and workshops. The term "Workshop" is not specifically mentioned in the new Act—see table below. Designed to secure safe and healthy working conditions in manufacturing and certain other operations, the Act includes provisions relating to Cleanliness, Overcrowding, Temperature, Ventilation, Lighting, Drainage of Floors, Sanitary Conveniences, Washing Facilities, Water Supplies, Prevention of Accidents, Fire Escapes, Welfare, etc.

The following table shows the position in Cockermouth Urban District at the end of 1938 and it will be seen that 69 premises were registered (included in which are 14 bakehouses) and no serious defects noted by the Sanitary Inspector who made 98 visits in all:—

Premises.	Number	Inspections	Defects Found	Written Notices.	Defects Remedied	Prosecutions
Factories with mechanical power	15	21	—	—	—	—
Factories without do	54	77	—	—	—	—
Other Premises under Act					—	—
Totals	69	98	—	—	—	—

**OFFENSIVE TRADES.**—A firm of Blood Driers applied for the consent of the Council to establish their trade in part of premises known as Derwent Mills. The Council was advised not to entertain such application for a trade of this character chiefly on the grounds (a) of the possibility of a nuisance and (b) of the close proximity of the premises to the source of water supply of the Maryport Water Board. Consent was refused and the applicants being aggrieved, appealed to the Cockermouth Justices, and at the hearing of such appeal on 25th April, 1938, the Justices allowed the appeal and made an Order that the Council grant a licence for the establishment of the trade or business for 12 months. The licence was accordingly issued on 2nd May, 1938, but production had not commenced at the end of the year.

There is still the Knacker and Fellmonger establishment in Waste Lane and frequent visits of inspection continue to be made to it.

## SHOPS.

No special action under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, was taken regarding ventilation, temperature or sanitary conveniences.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

In this district there are no (a) public or (b) privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Regarding the problem of the above, one case was reported and spraying and fumigation were resorted to.

## SCHOOLS.

### SANITARY CONDITION AND WATER SUPPLY.

All the Cockermouth Schools are on the town's water supply and water-carriage sewerage system.

Trough closets still exist in Fairfield School; these have been commented upon in previous annual reports.

### RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

The Sanitary Inspector co-operates with officials of the County Council. Poison is available at the Health Department offices at the Town Hall free of charge. The refuse tip continues to be periodically baited with rat poison.

It behoves the occupiers of all premises infested with rats or mice to take advantage of the facilities offered for the extermination of this vermin. In some instances nothing short of determined action to the extent of thoroughly ratproofing such premises will be of any avail.

There has been a steady demand for rat-poison the whole year round. During National Rat Week (7th—12th November) special efforts were made including the displaying of printed posters relating to rat infestation and destruction.

.....

## Housing.

Since my last report housing conditions in Cockermouth have been to some extent relieved by the completion of 50 houses at Windmill Lane and their occupation by persons displaced by Clearance Orders.

Consideration was given by the Council to the erection of further houses in connexion with Slum Clearance and at the time of writing I am able to say that the building of another 50 houses was commenced in March, 1939.

After the submission of representations referred to in my last annual report the Council declared 16 Clearance Areas comprising 121 houses and 8 other buildings and proceeded to make Clearance Orders. As objections were lodged by several property owners the Ministry of Health held a Public Inquiry (taken by B. W. Fitch-Jones, Esq., A.R.I.B.A.) on July 5th. Subsequently the Clearance Orders were confirmed by the Ministry in respect of 89

houses and not confirmed in respect of 32 houses and the other buildings, as shown in the following table:—

Clearance Areas.	Situation.	Orders Confirmed.	Orders not Confirmed.
Nos. 10 to 14 (inclusive)	The Goat	18 houses.	18 houses.
No. 15	Butt's Fold	7 houses.	3 other buildings
„ 16	Brewery Lane	5 houses.	—
„ 17	Marks Lane	6 houses.	1 other building.
„ 18	Teetotal Yard	5 houses.	—
„ 19	Findlay's Court	6 houses.	—
„ 20	Fleming's Court	4 houses.	1 house 1 other building.
„ 21	Wilson's Yard	3 houses.	2 houses.
„ 22	Bowman's Yard and Cooper's Yd.	8 houses	4 houses. 1 other building.
„ 23	Victoria Court	7 houses.	1 house. 1 other building.
„ 24	Cockton's Yard	10 houses.	2 houses.
„ 25	Lindsay's and Pearson's Yards	10 houses.	4 houses 1 other building.

Among the properties excluded from the Confirmation Orders were a number of houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted by the Council, and also 5 houses which were Crown property. Concerned in the 89 houses confirmed were 89 families and a total of 242 occupants.

Other houses inspected before the end of the year included 42 in Derwent Street and 13 in Sullart Street.

Fourteen new houses were built in Cockermouth in 1938 by private enterprise:

Vicarage Lane (Lorton Road	...	4
Sunscales	„ „	8
Moor Area	...	2

#### HOUSING (Rural Workers) ACT, 1926.

This temporary Act which was due to expire 24th June, 1938, has been extended to 30th September, 1942.



No advantage has been taken of the opportunities offered by this Act during the past two years, which is very disappointing.

For some years past I have pointed out the excellent opportunities available under this Act (by way of grants and/or loans—see below). I had hoped that considerable use would have been made of the Act, as there is still plenty of house property which could be dealt with under it by schemes of reconditioning and improvement, thus saving it from possible future condemnation and demolition.

Financial assistance from the County Council (which is the authority primarily responsible for the administration of the Act), can be obtained for the reconditioning of existing houses or the conversion of buildings into houses for agricultural labourers and those of similar economic standing. Such assistance can be provided by grants and/or loans to owners willing to carry out approved works such as:—

- (a) Structural alterations.
- (b) Additions.
- (c) Provision of Water Supply.
- (d) Drainage.
- (e) Sanitary conveniences and other like works.
- (f) Such other work as the County Council may deem to fall within the scope of the Act.

## Housing Appendix.

(in accordance with Circular 1728 Ministry of Health 25th Oct., 1938  
STATISTICS.

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts .....   | 165 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...   | 360 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 .....  | 0   |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...   | 0   |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....                                       | 114 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ..... | 51  |

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	50
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### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:--

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936—	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	0
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	0
(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—	0
4. Housing Act, 1936, Part iv., —Overcrowding:—	
(a) (i.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year ...	35
(ii.) Number of families dwelling therein ...	37
(iii.) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	221
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	4
(c) (i.) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year	12
(ii.) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	74
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ...	nil
(e) The Ministry of Health fixed January 1st, 1937, as the "Appointed Day" for the application of the Act as to overcrowding.	

From this date it is an offence for any dwellinghouse used by members of the working classes or suitable for such use to be overcrowded—with defined exceptions—and every rent book or similar document must contain a summary in the prescribed form of the provisions of the Act relating to offences, etc., and also a statement of the number of persons permitted to sleep in the house.

The duty is thereby imposed upon the local Authority to supply the "Permitted Number" for each house to which the Act applies on application by an owner. At the end of the year certificates of permitted numbers had been supplied in respect of 412 houses

4 more houses were surveyed and all were found overcrowded according to the Act. One of these is expected to be dealt with under Slum Clearance.

### FLOODING OF THE TOWN.

Extensive flooding of the lower lying houses and business premises occurred on the 30th July after almost a week of heavy rain. This was said to be one of the worst floods experienced in the history of the town, and was responsible for the destruction of one road bridge and serious damage to a footbridge, both of which span the River Cocker.

A portion of a main sewer was washed away where it crossed the Cocker.

Business premises in one instance, were so seriously affected that they had subsequently to be demolished. After the floods had subsided a comprehensive inspection was made of the area affected and assistance given to occupiers of houses wherever possible. Disinfectant was supplied free of charge and many houses sprayed by the Council's workmen.

## Food.

### MILK SUPPLY.

There were 12 registered milksellers whose premises were within the Urban District, including 5 producers and retailers, 1 producer wholesaler, 6 retail purveyors. Inspections are made periodically and endeavour is made to get improvements carried out to dairy premises where necessary.

A large quantity of the town's milk supply is retailed by producer's and retailers whose premises are situated in the surrounding Rural District. There were 10 of such producers and retailers during 1938.

The following table gives the result of 46 samples of milk retailed in the town and taken by the Sanitary Inspector, and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Cumberland Pathological Laboratory, Carlisle.

Of the above 46 samples, 21 were satisfactory and 25 unsatisfactory in relation to dirt contamination, as follows:—

	Satisfactory according to Accredited Standard. †	Unsatisfactory according to Accredited Standard. †	Total
Samples produced in Urban District	5	10	15
„ „ outside „	16	15	31
	<hr/> 21	<hr/> 25	<hr/> 46

The 25 unsatisfactory samples comprised:—

- 17 failing the Methyline Blue Reduction test only;
- 3 „ B. Coli test only (i.e. showing B. Coli in 2 or 3 tubes out of 3, and
- 5 „ Combined tests.

Tubercle bacilli were reported to be present in two grouped samples (one in the first quarter and the other in the fourth quarter of the year) from four retailers whose milk—in each instance excepting one, produced outside the urban district—was satisfactory regarding dirt contamination. On one of the farms involved a cow was found with a tuberculous udder and slaughtered: in the other cases “dry” cows had been disposed of between the time the sample was taken and the report received and it was assumed the infection in each case originated from one of these animals as all other tests proved negative.

Nineteen of the above samples were from milk supplied to schools in the district, 11 being satisfactory and 8 unsatisfactory (several being border-line cases).

Where results are unsatisfactory as to cleanliness suitable action is taken with a view to securing improvement. On a sample of milk being reported as tubercular, investigation is made by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. I am kindly informed by Mr. John Cameron, Divisional Inspector of that Authority, that in so far as the Urban District of Cockermouth was concerned, no cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, during the year under review.

In accordance with an agreement with the County Council, the sampling of designated milks 4 times a year, and schools' milk 3 times a year, as well as 30 routine samples including repeat samples, was aimed at.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, which came into force on June 1st, 1937, revoked the Milk (Special Designations) Orders of 1923 and 1934, and substituted for the old designations (Grade A. etc.) the following:—

Tuberculin Tested Milk (this milk may be pasteurised and is then described as "Tuberculin Tested Milk Pasteurised),  
Accredited Milk,  
Pasteurised Milk.

Certain conditions must be complied with before licences can be granted to producers and dealers.

(NOTE.—Milk not covered by this Order is ungraded and therefore without any guaranteed standard of purity).

The production and retailing of milk under "Special Designation" in the Cockermouth Urban District is as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested—John Cook, Fitz Road—Retailer  
Cockermouth Dairy Co., Ltd.—Retailer.  
Accredited.—J. Simpson, Dovenby Craggs—Retailer.  
Isaac Cook, Strawberry Howe—Producer.  
Wm. Cook, Annfield—Producer and Retailer.

## MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Slaughter-Houses.—There are still 3 Private Slaughter-houses (2 registered, 1 licensed), and the Council's Public Abattoir. Frequent inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Seven whole bovine carcasses and 1 fore quarter of beef, 2 calves ("Slink Veal"), 13 livers, 2 lungs and 1 head (all bovine), were condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1938—these were all voluntarily surrendered by the butchers concerned.

In the Cockermouth Urban District there were 10 slaughtermen licensed under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

Bakehouses.—These are occasionally inspected and generally found clean. There are still 14 altogether, of which 5 are considered domestic in type. No serious defects are reported.

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## Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during 1938, in the Cockermouth Urban District, including Pulmonary and other forms of Tuberculosis, Pneumonia, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Encephalitis Lethargica, Poliomyelitis, and Cerebro-spinal Fever, was 10.

Four of these were notifications of Tuberculosis.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1938.

Disease	Total cases notified in the district	Cases notified 1938 admitted to hospital	Deaths
Small-pox ...	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever ...	4	3	0
(Ages—7, 7, 8 & 10 years)			
Enteric Fever (including Para-Typhoid)	0	0	0
Pneumonia (all forms)	0	0	0
Erysipelas ...	2	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	0	0	0
Ac. Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Tuberculosis :—			
Pulmonary { Males	2	2 (San.)	0
Females	2	2 "	0
Total	4	4 "	0
Non-Pulmonary { Males	0	0	0
Females	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

Table showing monthly incidence of notifiable diseases, 1938 :—

Disease	Jan	Feb.	Mar	Apr.	May.	J'ne	July	Aug	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever						1	1	1		1			—4
Erysipelas	1			1									—2
Tuberculosis :													
Pulmonary	1		1		1					1			—4
Other Forms													—0

From notifications received it is deduced that one in every 479 persons in this district contracted a disease notifiable under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act and the Tuberculosis Regulations. (Last year's figures: 1 in 805; in 1915 they were 1 in 82, and in 1891 (excluding Tuberculosis Notifications) they were 1 in 60).

Four cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, three being removed to Ellerbeck Infectious Diseases Hospital, Workington, with com-

plete recovery. The case rate per 1000 of the population was, therefore, .83, and the death rate nil as compared with nil for both rates in 1937. The corresponding rates for all England and Wales (1938) were 2.41 and .01.

There has been no case of Diphtheria notified since 1936 and no death recorded. The case and death rates per 1,000 of the population were, therefore, nil. The corresponding rates for all England and Wales (1938) were 1.58 and .07.

There were, again, no notifications of Typhoid (including Para-typhoid) Fever, Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, Acute Poliomyelitis, or Encephalitis Lethargica.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—No notifications. The rate for Puerperal Pyrexia (including Puerperal Fever) is better expressed in relation to the number of births registered than to the population. When calculated on this basis the rate is:—Puerperal Pyrexia nil per 1000 total births (i.e. live and still births) registered during the year, the same as for the previous two years. The corresponding rate (1938) for England and Wales was 14.42.

There were again no Maternal deaths—corresponding, therefore, to a Maternal Mortality Rate of nil per 1000 total (live and still) births—the same as in the three previous years. The rate (1938) for England and Wales was 2.97.

Pneumonia.—Although no notifications were received it may be mentioned that 4 deaths from Pneumonia (all forms) were registered.

Tuberculosis.—Under the Tuberculosis Regulations 4 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (2 males and 2 females) but nil of other forms of Tuberculosis were notified.

All these cases—notified during the year—were admitted to Blencathra Sanatorium. One (pulmonary female) case notified previous to 1938, was re-admitted to Sanatorium.

The following table gives the number of New Cases and Mortality (all cases) during 1938:—

Age		New Cases				Deaths			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	...	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	...	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—
35—45	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—and upwards	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	2	2	0	0	0	2	1	0

A statement regarding the total deaths from Tuberculosis will be found on page 12.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1938 was as follows:—

		Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	...	5	8	13
Non-pulmonary	...	—	2	2
	All cases	5	10	15

No action has been required to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which relates to powers regarding persons suffering from Tuberculosis of the respiratory tract, and in an infectious state, and employed in connexion with a dairy or the handling of milk or milk vessels.

With reference to the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62, regarding compulsory removal to hospital or institution, no action has been taken.

No action has been taken with regard to the use of the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever, and no immunisation scheme has been carried out.

The following is a comparison table of Infectious diseases notified during the past ten years:—

Disease.	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Typhoid Fever						1				
Diphtheria			4							
Scarlet Fever	4		1	2	4	16		14	1	4
Puerperal Fever									1	2
Puerperal Pyrexia				1					1	
Pneumonia					1		1		1	1
Erysipelas	2		2		3	2	2	4		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum							2	3	1	
C.-S. Meningitis							2			
Tuberculosis:—										
Pulmonary	4	4	3	3	3	2	7	7	10	5
Other Forms		2	1			2	3	1	3	1

Non-Notifiable Acute Infectious Diseases.—Epidemics usually occur in conjunction with epidemics in the districts adjoining.

Influenza was prevalent towards the end of the year. Two deaths occurred, corresponding to an Influenza death-rate of .41 per 1000 of the population—the same as in 1937. The rate (1938) for all England and Wales was .11

Measles became epidemic in the early Summer and caused the closure of Fairfield Infants School for a period (in May).

There were again no deaths from either Measles or Whooping Cough (the latter disease was not epidemic). The death rate of each per 1000 of the population was nil (the respective death rates for all England and Wales being 0.04 and 0.03).

In the past eleven years there have only been two deaths from Whooping Cough (1 each in 1930 and 1933), and one from Measles (in 1934).



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SUMMARY  
OF WORK DONE  
BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR  
During the year 1938.

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Summary supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health, in pursuance of Article xix. of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926.

### NUISANCES:

Nuisances reported to Council	...	nil
Notices served after inspection	...	14
Notices complied with	...	14

### Detailed Sanitary Work:

Choked drains, defective I.C.'s and gullies	8
New I.C.'s laid to drainage systems	1
Damp and defective roof, etc.	6
Additional W.C.'s	1
New Bathrooms	1
Housing Inspections	262
Factories inspections	98
Meat Inspections at Slaughter-houses	approx, 200
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections	18
Visits to Knackery	18

Plans were approved during 1938 for the following:—

Lock-up Shop in Windmill Lane for Mr. H. Bank.  
 Petrol Tank in High Sand Lane for Mr. W. Twigg.  
 Nurses quarters at Cottage Hospital for Cockermouth and District Nursing Association.  
 Bathroom at Evening Hill, Brigham Road, for Mr. F. Mitchell.  
 Alteration to Two Houses at the Goat for Messrs. M. Brown and Co.  
 Conversion of Four Houses into Two at the Goat for Mrs. E. K. Williamson.  
 Conversion of Four Houses into Two at the Goat for Mr. W. Todhunter.  
 Conversion of House into Business Premises in Crown Street for Messrs. Bowe and Clark.  
 Public Conveniences in Main Street, Cockermouth Urban District Council.  
 Garage in New Street for Mr. W. S. Nicholson.  
 Garage, Sunscapes Estate, for Mr. J. Twiname.  
 Petrol Tank in Rydiard's Yard for Mr. Newman.  
 Stable in New Street for Mr. W. S. Nicholson.  
 Petrol Tank in Station Road for West Cumberland Farmers' Trading Society.  
 Garage in Brigham Road, Mr. T. F. Fisher.

WM. NICHOLLS,

M.I.M. & C.E., A.R. San. I.,  
 Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.



